

# Protection of Children, Youth & Vulnerable People



Adullam Camps is committed to the protection and appropriate interactions with all campers within our care.

Abuse is a criminal act as well as a violation of human conscience and dignity. It is a violation of God's moral law within the trusted context of relationship. Criminal behavior causes emotional, physical and spiritual trauma to victims, and has destructive consequences for abusers. The devastating effects on the credibility of our camp leadership ministry and the name of Christ make it essential that Adullam Camps take all appropriate steps to prevent abusive incidents from occurring.

This package of information is designed to the greatest extent possible, provide for the safety of the children, youth or vulnerable people served by our staff and volunteers. In this way, we will do our utmost to do our part in safeguarding the children, youth or vulnerable people involved in our program from abuse and to protect our staff and volunteers from potential allegations of abuse.

Child Abuse is defined as being physically, emotionally or, sexually abused. All child abuse involves the misuse of power. Misuse of power takes place when people take advantage of the authority or power they have over other people.

## **Emotional or Psychological Abuse**

is a pattern of inflicting mental pain, anguish or distress on a child or vulnerable person through verbal or nonverbal acts. Emotional abuse is the most common form of abuse. It diminishes a person's sense of identity, dignity and self esteem. It could include:

- Name calling, insults, demeaning or belittling comments
- Yelling
- Swearing
- Being overly familiar, disrespectful or treating vulnerable people like children or servants
- Threats of injury
- Intimidation or mockery
- Ignoring
- Isolation or exclusion
- Lying
- Intentionally misinterpreting traditional or cultural practices

# Neglect

is refusal or failure to provide necessities of life. It may be physical, psychological or financial. It also may be:

- Active which is the intentional withholding of necessities of life or
- Passive is not providing basic necessities of life because of lack of experience, information or ability

# Physical Abuse

is inflicting or threatening to inflict physical force that results, or could result in, injury to a child or vulnerable person or depriving them of a basic need. It is more than reasonable discipline. Sometimes injury is caused by over-discipline. Injuring a child is not acceptable, regardless of differing cultural standards on discipline.

# Sexual Abuse

is any kind of sexual stimulation or gratification directed towards a child or vulnerable person without the person's full knowledge or consent. It includes sexual assault, sexual harassment and rape. Sexual activity between children or youth may also be sexual abuse if older or more powerful children or youth take sexual advantage of those who are younger or less powerful. Sexual abuse is different than physical abuse. It has both physical and psychological components and its purpose is often to exert power and control or demean the person.

Campers may display signs that they have been or are being abused. It is helpful to be aware of what some of these signs may be. There is no one sign that definitely means that someone is being abused and abuse is a very serious allegation so we must be cautious in jumping to conclusions or making assumptions.

## Sexual Abuse (con't)

Child sexual abuse includes behaviour that involves touching and non-touching aspects.

A. Types of abuse that involve touching include:

- Fondling.
- Oral, genital and anal penetration.
- Intercourse.
- Forcible rape.

B. Types of sexual abuse that do not involve touching includes:

- Verbal comments.
- Pornographic videos.
- Obscene phone calls.
- Exhibitionism.
- Allowing children to witness sexual activity.

# Response to abuse

may be physical, behavioural or verbal.

## A. Physical responses may include:

- Guarding or hiding an injury.
- Recoil from touch.
- Altered activities of daily living.

## C. Verbal responses may include the following statements:

- I don't like (names a particular person).
- (Particular person) does things to me when we're alone.
- I don't like to be alone with (particular person).
- (Particular person) fooled around with me.

## B. Behavioral responses may include:

- Anxiety when approaching a particular room, place or area.
- Nervous or hostile behaviour.
- Sexual self-consciousness.
- "Acting out" sexual behaviour.
- Withdrawal from normal activities and friends.
- Changes in personality such as depression, fear, anxiety.
- Self destructive behaviour.

# Signs of Abuse

## A. Signs of physical abuse may include:

- Unexplained injuries such as lacerations, abrasions and bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, or burns.
- Nightmares.
- Restraint marks.
- Over sedation.

## B. Signs of emotional or psychological abuse may include:

- Anxiety.
- Depression.
- Expresses feelings of shame, invalid guilt, and helplessness.
- Sadness.
- Withdrawn.
- Tearful.
- Overly compliant or submissive.
- Nightmares.
- Caregiver is overly involved or speaks for the person.
- Strained relationships or arguments with the vulnerable person and others.

## C. Signs of sexual abuse may include:

- Wounds around the breast and genital areas.
- Irritation, pain or injury to the genital area.
- Difficulty with urination.
- Discomfort when sitting.
- Torn or bloody underclothing.
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases - STD's.

## Signs of Abuse (con't)

### **D. Signs of neglect may include:**

- Malnutrition, unusual weight loss or dehydration.
- Bedsores or unattended medical needs.
- Poor hygiene. • Inadequate clothing or other necessities.
- Unclean or unsafe living accommodations.

### **E. Signs of violation of rights and/or being deprived of choices:**

- Withholding information.
- Mail censorship.
- Denying either privacy or visitors.
- Preventing them from spiritual or religious practices.

## Touch - Appropriate Touch

### **A. Appropriate Touch Love and caring can be expressed in the following appropriate ways, by:**

- Bending down to the child's eye level and speaking kindly; listening to him or her carefully.
- Taking a child's hand and leading him or her to an activity.
- Putting an arm around the shoulder of a child who needs quieting or comforting.
- Taking both of the child's hands as you say, "You did such a good job!" (or "I'm so glad to see you. We've missed you!" etc.).
- Patting a child on the head, hand, shoulder or back to affirm him or her.
- Holding a child by the shoulders or hand to keep his or her attention while you redirect the child's behaviour.
- Gently holding a child's chin to help him or her focus on what you are saying. (important for children with attention deficit disorder).
- Holding a preschool child who is crying.

# Touch - Inappropriate Touch

## **B. Inappropriate Touch You must avoid:**

- Kissing a child, coaxing a child to kiss you, extended hugging and tickling.
- Touching a child in any area that would be covered by a bathing suit (except when assisting a child with toileting).
- Carrying older children or having them sit on your lap.

# Washroom Guidelines

For young campers, two approved personnel will escort a group of children to the washroom. Where we do not have two approved personnel available to take children to the washroom, supervisory personnel (preferably female) will be appointed to assist with washroom duties. If just one toddler or kindergarten child must go to the washroom, the staff/adult volunteer should escort the child to the washroom and prop the outside door open. The staff/volunteer should then remain outside the washroom door and wait for the child before escorting him or her back to the group. When young campers need assistance in the washroom, a staff/volunteer may enter the washroom cubicle to assist only when a second staff/volunteer is within visual contact. If this is not possible, inform another staff/volunteer when taking a camper to the washroom and when returning. Young campers should not be sent to the washroom alone, but should be accompanied by a staff/volunteer. The volunteer should call the child's name if they are taking longer than seems necessary. Never be alone with a child in an unsupervised washroom and never go into a washroom cubicle with a child and shut the door.

## **Vulnerable People**

The volunteer should prop the door open to make sure that everything is in order. The volunteer should then remain outside the washroom door and wait for the vulnerable person. The volunteers should call the person's name if they are taking longer than seems necessary. Never be alone with a vulnerable person in an unsupervised washroom and never go into a washroom cubicle with a vulnerable person and shut the door.

**Incident reporting/Process is a camper discloses abuse**

**Any person who has reasonable grounds to believe that a child, youth or vulnerable person is in need of protection is legally required to report the matter. A person who knowingly fails to report in these circumstances is in violation of the law and may be found to have committed an offense. Reports of abuse on a vulnerable person should be reported to the adult camp director and they will make a report to the police.**



## **Incident reporting/Process is a camper discloses abuse (con't)**

If you have any concerns regarding the safety of a child, you should report to the adult director at your camp who will discuss it with the chairperson of the Board of Directors. They will take care of contacting Child and Family Services or the police if necessary.

Abuse or neglect need not have already occurred for a child to be in need of protection; it is not necessary to wait until a child has been harmed to intervene. When abuse or neglect can be reasonably anticipated and there are reasonable grounds to believe a child is in need of protection, the legal obligation to report applies.

## **Confidentiality**

In matters of possible abuse, it is important to keep the information restricted to those who need to be advised, therefore, all suspicions of abuse should be directed only to the Sr staff director, program director or Adult director.